

November 8, 2007

Mr. Michael Thompson
Via email miket1024@hotmail.com



Dear Mr. Thompson:

Thank you for taking the time to share your unfortunate parking experience with us. We are truly sorry for your experience in Kirkland, and it certainly is not our intent to create problems for residents who live here, workers who are employed here, or visitors who come to our city to enjoy the many amenities here.

For a variety of reasons the lot where you experienced your difficulties has two types of parking; both pay and free. This condition arose for our desire to provide free parking, support the downtown merchants, and encourage turnover so more people can enjoy our downtown. One result of this policy, as you have experienced, is potential confusion. The City Council agrees that the partially pay and 2-hour free parking stalls can be confusing to someone who is unfamiliar to our parking lots. As a result of your experience, I will ask staff to review the current signage in the Lakeshore Plaza parking lot. We specifically will look at it from the perspective of someone both new to our City and who is unfamiliar with our practice of having two types of parking in the same lot.

Again, we are truly sorry for your experience and respectfully ask that you someday consider a future visit to our city. Downtown parking is a challenge for many communities, and we rely on feedback like yours to help us continue to improve parking in Kirkland. If you have any other parking questions or comments, you may contact Tami White, the Parking Coordinator, by email twhite@ci.kirkland.wa.us or by phone at 425.587.3871.

Sincerely,
KIRKLAND CITY COUNCIL

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James L. Lauinger".

James L. Lauinger
Mayor